

GIROC

Local Council Office:

Giroc, 54 Semenici str., telephone 0256/395648, fax 0256/395798;

Coordinates:

45°41'46" N lat.;
21°14'13" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1371/1372 - Giroc is first mentioned in documents under the name **Gyureg**;

-1456 - Chișoda is the property of **John Hunyadi** (Ioan de Hunedoara);

-1717 - Giroc is recorded under the name **Jurok**, including 70 houses;

-1725-1760 - present day Chișoda is established;

-1783 - Giroc is known under the name **Diurak**;

-1897 - the People's Bank "Ghiroceana" is founded by a local teacher, Atanasie Baicu;

-1889 - the male choir from Giroc is founded, and in 1890 the male choir from Chișoda;

-1910-1912 - German colonists from Nițchidorf settle in Giroc;

-1936 - Giroc has a National House, a hunting society, a brick factory, train station, post office;

-4 June 1939 - **Petru Chira** is born in Chișoda; epigrammatist, publicist;

-2 August 1947 - **Aurel Jivi** is born in Chișoda; theologian and professor (d. 1.11.2002);

-1947 - **Petrică Moise**, singer of folk music from Banat, is born;

-1972 - **Constantin Iosub**, Hero Martyr of the Revolution from 1989, is born in Giroc;

-1998 - the first issue of "Dialogue with Citizens" is published;

-2002 - Giroc has a population of 4,075;

-2006 - the school from Chișoda is named after teacher **Iosif Ciorogariu**;

-2008 - the first edition of the Easter fest "**The sound of semantron**" takes place;

Total population on 1 January 2010: 5,758 persons, of which:

- male = 2,793 persons

- female = 2,965 persons



Total number of households on 1 January 2010: 2,574

Member villages: Giroc and Chișoda (1332, Tesola);

Educational institutions: Primary and secondary schools: Giroc and Chișoda; Kindergartens with extended hours: Giroc and Chișoda;

Health facilities: Medical practices: Giroc (two) and Chișoda (two); Dental practices: Giroc and Chișoda; Human pharmacies: Giroc and Chișoda; Veterinary practice: Giroc; Veterinary Pharmacy: Giroc;

Cultural institutions: National House: Chișoda; Community Center: Giroc; Library: Giroc (founded in 1974);

Fitness and sports facilities: "Unirea" Stadium from Giroc; "F.C. Chișozeana" Stadium from Chișoda;

Churches, monasteries and other places of worship: Romanian orthodox churches: Giroc (1759, first mentioned) and Chișoda (1749); Roman-catholic churches: Giroc and Chișoda (1933); Baptist churches: Giroc (1956) and Chișoda (1990); Pentecostal churches: Giroc and Chișoda; "Most Holy Trinity" Monastery from Giroc;

Annual Church festival and other cultural-religious events: Village celebrations: Giroc (Easter) and Chișoda (15 August - Assumption of Mary); "Floare Giroceană" International Folklore Festival (June-July);

Citizens of Honor: Iosif Gaiță, P.S. Paisie Lugojanu, Ionel Chermeleu, Octavian Gruitță, Petrică Moise, Ionel Pascotă, Daniela Bitulean, Ionel Murariu, Victor Șchiopu, Petru Chira, Ioan Cerbu, Gh. Țap (post-mortem);

CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF GIROC

Toma Iosif Ionel	Mayor	Jivi Ioan, LC Member	GPR
Popazie Ionel	Vice Mayor	Pascotă Ionel-Petru, LC Member	SDP
Aga Dorin Petru, LC Member	GRP	Pădeanu Ioan, LC Member	DLP
Cojeia Ciprian, LC Member	DLP	Seiman Gheorghe, LC Member	SDP
Gâlcă Ilie, LC Member	NLP	Terteci Lenuța, LC Member	SDP
Golban Gheorghe, LC Member	SDP	Țap Gheorghe, LC Member	SDP
Gruitță Octavian-Petru, LC Member	NLP	Urșica Adrian-Dănuț, LC Member	CP

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"MOST HOLY TRINITY"

Besides the renowned **Timișeni Monastery from Giroc Forest** (Romanian orthodox), the Greek-Catholic Community has recently raised a small monastic settlement. The dedication day of the "Most



Holy Trinity" Monastery from Giroc (Timișoara protopresbyterate)

is the monastic celebration of "Brothers of the Holy Cross" held on 19 July, and the chapel is addressed to the holy prophet Elijah.

**GIROC - "MESCAL"**

Between May - June 2006, a group of archeologists including dr. Florin Gogâltan (Institute of Archology and Art History from Cluj) – scientific coordinator, Alexandru Szentmiklósi and Valentin Cedică (Banat Museum Timișoara) resumed the archeological research of Mescal site at the border of Giroc (the site had been explored in the summer of 1992 and 1993 by Florin Gogâltan, and the prehistoric dwelling layers had been identified). The archeological works in the spring of 2006 proved the existence of several prehistoric sites dating back to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. In Giroc – Mescal there are several dwelling layers; the earliest belongs to the Bronze Age and the most recent represents a cemetery from the Modern Age. The settlement dating to the Early Bronze Age belongs to the Gornea – Orlești cultural group and is topped by a settlement dating to the second half of the 2nd millennium before Christ (late Bronze Age), belonging to Crucești Belegis culture. The promoters of that culture - animal breeders and



hunters - settled on the bank of Timiș river, but the village area moves around along the river bank. Even though there are very few facts about the settlement in the Early Bronze Age, the settlement belonging to Crucești Belegis culture revealed several houses and signs of metalworking (tile moulds for casting bronze objects, casting remains). The succession of prehistoric settlements is continued by a settlement belonging to the First Iron Age, namely the Gornea - Kalakaca cultural group. Despite that fact that researches led to the discovery of a layer belonging to the medieval age, no archeological



complex has yet been identified. The last layers include a burial ground dated in the XVIIth - XIXth century (confirmed by a coin issued at the end of XVIIIth century).

THE SEMANTRONS' FEST

The Semantrons' Festival has taken place in Giroc for several years, around Easter time, the biggest festival of its kind in western Romania. Children, nuns and priests, capable of handling the wooden teil mallets, measure their skills in the 33 blows contest, a number which symbolizes the number of years spent by Jesus on Earth.



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THE PRIDE OF BANAT FOLK SONGS



One of the golden voices of the genuine folklore from Banat, **Petrică Moise**, was born in Chișoda, in 1947, in a poor family with 10 children. During the school

years in his home village, his mother passed on the love for “**national music**”, as the master liked to refer to the songs he performed. It was his mother’s special way of interpreting the ballad “**Florică, beautiful wife**” that Moise kept in his memory. Petrică Moise attended the art vocational school, high school, and then the university in Timișoara and Cluj-Napoca, developing his native vocal skills by thorough study. He is very proud of the traditions and the unique spirit of Banat and he uses his songs to revive the genuine folklore from Banat, which has been altered in the communist period by Proletkult, and after 1989 by a process of “manelizare” (manele = cheap mixture of “oriental” - Turkish/Middle Eastern - influences and Balkan music) of the Romanian village. “Iorgovan, pretty flower”, “Who hears the cuckoo in the evening”, “Time comes and goes”, “When feast began

in the village”, “Two beauties from Chișoda”, “My people from Banat”, “Baby, rose bud”, “My country is my Banat!”, “hore”, “doine”, “brăuri”, endless are the songs inherited by Romanian people from Petrică Moise!

Petrică Moise has founded the group The



Virtuosi of Bana), who gave true shows in Timiș, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara, invited by the lovers of genuine folklore and old romances.

One of his daughters follows his footsteps, inheriting his talent: Liuța Moise has graduated the cello class of the music high school, learns classic singing, has a voice cut out for romances and has recorded a romance CD.

PETRU CHIRA-CHIȘOZANU

Petru Chira was born on 4 June 1939 in Chișoda. He worked part time for local and national newspapers and magazines, such as: Red Flag, Horizon, The Revival of Banat, Pardon, The Epigram, The Nettle, Sibiu Tribune.



Petru Chira Chișozanu, as seen by Dan Radu Ionescu (DRIO)

He was the founding member of the literary club “Ridendo” from Timișoara (1980), and of the Epigrammatists’ Union from Romania. He gets published in several almanacs and epigram collections. He writes poetry in Banat dialect, lyrical poetry, sonnets: “Illegal Thorns”,

“Woman, the eternal story”, “Three pitching”, “Hunting Larks”, “Angels of light”, single of collectively authored volumes with Livia Ilcău, Dumitru Ivan Teiu or Ionel Iacob Bencei.

Waggishly, Petru Chira has prepared his epitaph forearm, obviously in an epigram:

**“How I lived, ‘tis I who knows
And I say this when all is done:
I have to thank the good old God
Though now I die, my life was worth.”**

And, as a proud “bănățean”, he doesn’t refrain from “stinging” his fellow epigrammatists from Oltenia:

**“To masters of jokes and morals,
So talented and yet so flat,
Why should you rest on laurels
When you also have a mat?”**

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SINGING AND DANCING
IN GIROC

THE BRASS BAND

In 1928, a group of locals from Giroc (teacher **Mihai Bocșa**, priest **David Voniga**, teacher **Atanasie Baicu**, **Dimitrie Rotariu**, **Ioan Ilie Pascotă**, **Niță Gaiță**, **Petru Ruja** a.o.) founded a peasant brass band, appointing Ioan Văcan as its first conductor. For almost twenty years, between 1936 and



1955, the brass band from Giroc had been conducted and trained by **Ioan Ilie Pascotă**.

The brass band has been invited to events and parades, and now it's tradition to have the village celebration from Giroc opened by the band led by Ilie Pascotă. The activity of the brass band was put on hold due to war, not to mention that the instruments got stolen by the Russian soldiers passing by Giroc. So, after the war ended, some of the members needed to purchase new instruments. Between 1956-1988, the brass band is brought back to life by Ionel Pascotă, and included the pupils of the school from Giroc, such as Pascotă Petru, Pascotă Ionel, Muler Petru, Avrămuț Petru, Peia Iosif, Roman Vasii, Barani Petru, Ciobanu Dumitru, Brânda Petru, the Flender brothers. In 1999, mayor **Iosif-Ionel Toma** and conductor **Ionel Pascotă** reinstate the brass band, while the

A FAMILY ON TWO WHEELS

Ionel Pascotă jr. was born on 14 July 1979 in Timișoara (Giroc), in a motorcycling passionate family, whose men had been competing in motorcycling races ever since the '40s. His grandfather, Ioan-Ilie Pascotă, was multiple national champion between 1948-1955 and Balkanic runner-up in 1948. In 1955 he died following a motorcycling crash. **Ionel Pascotă sr.**, began his career in motorcycling in 1949, together with his brother, Petrică Pascotă. He won 6 national championship titles, 12 titles as runner-up, 15 bronze medals. He was awarded the title Sports Master in 1979, and became a professional coach in 1977. His competition life last-

Local City Council purchase new instruments for its members, the students of the school from Giroc. The brass band performed on several events and was rewarded with valuable prizes (The National Festival of Peasant Brass Bands from Caransebeș, The Brass Band Festival from Buziaș and The Folklore Festival for Children and Adolescents DKMT Timișoara). Its repertoire includes: "Wake up, Romanian", "If only my baby would wait near the hill cross", "Bade, new hat", "Girl from Banat".

"SNOWDROP"

Between 1969-1989 a very good folklore group, "Ghiocelul" from Giroc, affiliated to the trade unions from Timișoara, participated to several tours in and out of the country, where it was awarded many prizes. Not until 1997, a former member of the group, **Iosif-Ionel Toma**, mayor of Giroc, decides to revive "Ghiocelul" and ever since, it is affiliated to the local City Hall. The group has attended folklore shows all over the country, and abroad (Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria), winning many awards and prizes. The group (**Ileana Szabo**, director, **Victor Jicheran**,



choreographer, music arrangements master **Luță Popovici**) has 70 members (five lead singers, seven play the instruments, and the rest are dancers).



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ed until 1993. His brother, Petrică Pascotă, won two national championship titles in motorcycling, and five runner-up titles. At the age of six, **Ionel Pascotă junior** received a mini-motorcycle, made by his father's hands. At the age of 12 he competed in his first motor race, and in 2004 he became sports master. Ionel Pascotă jr. has an impressive track record: between 1993-2004 he won six national titles and several runner-up titles in national and Balkanic competitions. His sports career improved after he joined the sports club UCM Reșița in 2005: 2005 – national champion in 600 supersport, 2005 – national champion in 1000 superbike, 2005 – Balkanic champion in 600 supersport, 2006 – national champion in 600 supersport, 2006 – national champion in 1000 superbike, 2006 – Balkanic champion in 600 supersport, 2006 – Balkanic champion 1000 superbike, 2007 – national champion of Austria, 2007 – European champion Alpe-Adria, 2008 – national champion in 600 supersport, 2008 – Romanian Superbike champion – 600 supersport, 2008 – European champion UEM Cup, 2009 – East-European national champion 600 supersport, 2009 – Romanian Superbike champion – 600 supersport, - 2010 – National Champion in the 600 Supersport class circuit, National Champion in the 1000 Superbike class circuit, National Champion on the airport in the 600 Supersport class, National Champion on the airport in the 1000 Superbike class, 2nd place at the Dunlop Romanian Superbike 600 Supersport Championship.



A SCHOOL NAMED AFTER ITS TEACHER

In 1734, the Austrian state donated a plot of land to the people of Chișoda for the purpose of building a school, and also 8 jochs (around 4 ha) of arable land for the use of the teachers. So, a document dated 1 October 1776 (property of the Vojevodina archives, Sremschi Karhveina Ilirska Kancelaria), signed by **Teodor Iancovici**, director of the Illyrian schools from Banat, records the existence of the school from “**Kischoda**” affiliated to “**Temesvar District**”. At the middle of the XVIIIth century, the school from Chișoda had one classroom and the teacher's living quarters. Between 1788 and 1802, the old school from Chișoda was the place where 89 children learned writing, reading, singing and mathematics, under the supervision of teacher **Ioan Olariu**. His role was taken over by **Ioan Iancovici** (1813-1819), then **Ioachim Popovici**, native from the village, as well as **Ilie Amandia**, alumnus of the Theology College from Arad in 1826. After 1845, the teachers of the school were **Toma Amandia**, then **Moise Babescu**,

Simion Moldovan, **Terentie Popescu**, followed by another native from Chișoda, **Traian Ciorogariu**, followed by **Paul Ivi**.

A new school building was raised in 1892. That was the year when **Iosif Ciorogariu**, descendant of the Mărcușoni family, began his teaching career after having graduated the Preparandia from Arad (Teaching Staff College). Iosif Ciorogariu was a teacher and



The Chișoda School, now

a church cantor between 1892-1936. The teacher Iosif Ciorogariu is the one who established a mixed four part choir. He was also the one to train the folk dance ensemble and he also put the basis of the village library. Teacher Iosif Ciorogariu also initiated the building of the National House in 1927, and the black marble memorial in honor of the people from Chișoda who had died in the First World War. Such actions were the reason behind the decision to name the Primary and Secondary School from Chișoda, starting with 2006, after the name of the teacher “**Iosif Ciorogariu**”.

The school from Giroc has a long and sound tradition, too.